



AUGUST TIP SAVINGS: \$100-\$300/YR

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 100 lbs./YR

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

HARVEST MULTIPLE BENEFITS WITH RAINWATER COLLECTION

Free water boosts plant growth and reduces potential pollution

August is in the middle of our summer monsoon season. Here are our top five best reasons to take advantage of rainwater harvesting.

1. RAIN IS FREE

We average almost 8-inches of rain a year. And, with a typical Arizona desert home, we have rooftops, driveways and sidewalks that make prime catchment areas. In fact, the rooftop of a 1500 square-foot home can collect almost 500 gallons from ½-inch of rain!

2. IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR PLANTS

Rainwater is a clean, salt-free source of water that contains many beneficial ingredients for plants. Rain can contain sulfur, potash, several other minerals and even microorganisms, all of which provide a boost to plant growth. During summer thundershowers there can even be an added bonus when lightening converts atmospheric nitrogen into a nitrogen solution for plants.

3. YOU CAN HELP REPLENISH GROUNDWATER

Typically, rain falls and seeps underground to become groundwater in aquifers and/or it feeds rivers or lakes. However, the concrete, asphalt and land grading of cities have disrupted this cycle. It's now more important than ever to collect as much rainwater as we can in our landscapes whether at our homes properties, businesses or along our city streets.

4. IT WILL IMPROVE YOUR SOIL AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Rain is naturally distilled through evaporation prior to cloud formation making it one of the purest sources of water. This means that it's one of the best ways to dilute salt buildup that naturally occurs in our soils. This happens due to so little rainfall and because we add our 'hard' water to the landscape with each irrigation. It is recommended to run your irrigation an extra cycle or two in the summer to help wash excess salts past the root zone of plants where it can cause leaf burn and other plant problems. But, if we get a good monsoon and you are collecting rainwater on your landscape, these extra irrigations will not be necessary. And, there's one more benefit to mention. Any applied fertilizers, insect granules or weed spray stay on your property when you harvest rainwater, instead of running off where they can negatively impact our natural waterways.

5. GRAVITY IS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP

Start from your highest water catchment surfaces (i.e. rooftop) and allow gravity to carry the water through gutters or channels to where you want it to provide the greatest benefit. Water harvesting systems can range from simple to complex. Go outside during your next rainstorm (if there's no lightening) and observe how the water flows off your structures and property.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **Attend** our water harvesting series, *Hydrate Mesa*, from Aug. 23 thru Sept. 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Mesa Main Library. See page 2. The program is free but please register at www.watershedmg.org/hydrate.
- ☐ **Call (480) 644-3306** to request a free booklet titled *Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use*.
- ☐ **Visit** our water harvesting resource page at www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-serve/rainwater-harvesting.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving on your water bill while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our website for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

A typical home rooftop can collect about 500 gallons of water from just ½-inch of rain. That's enough to flush a toilet 300 times.



Learn to live Green


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BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY

mesaaz.gov/sustainability



Hydrate Mesa Project Series

Watershed Management Group's popular *Hydrate* project series is coming to Mesa this August! *Hydrate Mesa* will teach you how to create a sustainable backyard oasis at your own home. Each presentation

includes a mini-project to create a landscape plan for your home.

The *Hydrate Mesa* series will be held at the Mesa Main Library on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Join us for the first session on August 23 and you'll receive a free rain gauge so you can track the rainfall at your home. And for every session you attend, you'll receive a raffle ticket to be entered in a drawing for more water-harvesting goodies. Learn more and sign up on our website, www.watershedmg.org/hydrate.



Thank you to our Hydrate sponsors!



Delivering water and power.™



Hydrate Mesa

Free project series

Tuesday evenings • 6:00-7:30pm • August 23 – September 27, 2016 • FREE!



Aug 23 Hydrate Your COMMUNITY

Harvest rainwater & greywater to make the most of our desert water resources



Aug 30 Hydrate Your PLANTS

Create a beautiful landscape with native plants and trees



Sept 6 Hydrate Your YARD

Contour your landscape to direct rainwater to your plants



Sept 13 Hydrate Your FOOD

Use rain tanks to support your vegetable garden



Sept 20 Hydrate Your SOILS

Turn waste into resources and build healthy soils



Sept 27 Hydrate With GREYWATER

Harvest greywater to complete your backyard oasis

Mesa Main Public Library
64 E 1st St, Mesa, AZ 85201
August 23 – September 27, 2016
Tuesday evenings • 6:00-7:30pm

Presented by:



Go to watershedmg.org/hydrate for more details and to sign up.



before



after